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Docket No. C14-161741M/ISI
(NGB.305)

REMARKS

Applicants concurrently file herewith a Request for Continued Examination and Petition for Extension of Time for a one-month extension of time.

Claims 1-7 and 10-21 are all of the claims presently pending in the application.

Applicants have not amended the previously pending claims.

In rejecting the claims, as summarized in the Advisory Action dated March 25, 2009, the Examiner asserts the following alleged relationships between claimed elements and elements disclosed in Yasuhara:

| Claim element | Yasuhara element | Note |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--|
| acoustic device | entertainment system 1 | |
| first output unit | speaker 10, 11 | |
| first operation unit | power switch 21 | which switches the power of the acoustic device (see paragraph [0046]). |
| second operation unit | DVD 4 | the last selected audio source is selected as the front audio source. The rear audio source is the DVD, which is different from the front audio source (see paragraph [0058]). |
| control unit | controller 80 | when the rear audio source is different from the front audio source, sound does not come out of the rear speakers 11 (see paragraph [0062]). |

When the DVD is used to switch the power of the acoustic device, the rear speaker 11 becomes muted. That is, when the power supply to the acoustic device is turned on by the second operation unit (DVD), the rear speaker 11 becomes muted.

In Yasuhara, the front speaker 10 and the rear speaker 11 have the same sound source selected by the switch 91, as shown in Figure 9. The headphones 12, 13 have a sound source

selected by a switch 92, so that the sound source of the headphones 12, 13 can be different from that of the speakers 10, 11. Applicants submit that the headphones 12, 13 are analogous to the claimed second output unit.

As the Examiner asserts, in Yasuhara, when the power supply is started from DVD 4, a part of the first output unit (rear speaker 11) becomes muted. That is, headphone: ON, front speaker: ON, rear speaker: mute, which corresponds to the ordinary dual mode in the embodiment of the present application (see application at paragraph [0071] of the publication of the present application).

In Yasuhara, the rear speaker 11 becomes muted for preventing interference between sound from the rear speaker 11 and that from the headphone 12, 13. Applicants submit that Yasuhara describes that “when the rear audio source is different from the front audio source, sound does not come out of the rear speaker 11 so as to prevent interference between sound from the front speakers 10 and sound from the rear speaker 11” (see Yasuhara at paragraph [0062]).

In contrast, in an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, when the power supply is turned on from the second operation unit (e.g., external DVD device 7 or rear operation unit), the acoustic device becomes set in the special dual mode in which the front speaker 10 also becomes muted. Yasuhara does not teach or suggest the special dual mode of the claimed invention.

Thus, the Examiner’s assertion that the first output unit becomes muted, based on that only the rear speaker 11 becomes muted, is unreasonable. Since the Examiner analogizes the front speaker 10 and the rear speaker 11 of Yasuhara to the claimed first output unit, it is then necessary to demonstrate that both the front speaker 10 and the rear speaker 11 become muted.

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Yasuhara, however, fails to teach or suggest this feature.

Applicants have added claim 21 to claim additional features of the invention and to vary the protection for the claimed invention further. This claim is independently patentable because of the novel and nonobvious features recited therein.

Applicants submit that new claim 21 is patentable over the cited prior art references at least for analogous reasons to those previously set forth with respect to claims 1-7 and 10-20.


Applicants submit that claims 1-7 and 10-21, all of the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, Applicants requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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